



**U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)  
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

***Iran – Earthquake***

Fact Sheet #6, Fiscal Year (FY) 2004

January 5, 2004

Beginning today, January 5, Iran Earthquake Fact Sheets will be issued on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

**BACKGROUND**

- According to the U.S. Geological Survey, on December 26, 2003, at 05:27 local time, an earthquake measuring 6.6 on the Richter scale struck southeastern Iran's Kerman Province. The epicenter of the earthquake, with a depth of 10 km, was near the city of Bam, 180 km southeast of the provincial capital of Kerman and 975 km southeast of Tehran.
- The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA) reports that 100,000 to 120,000 people live in Bam and the surrounding area, all of whom have been affected by the earthquake. According to the USAID/Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART), the Government of Iran (GOI) estimates that the earthquake has resulted in the deaths of 33,000 to 34,000 people. UN OCHA estimates that 30,000 others have been injured.
- According to the USAID/DART, 80 to 90 percent of houses were destroyed in the immediate area of Bam. An estimated 40,000 to 60,000 residents are homeless, but a definitive number is difficult to establish as many residents have fled Bam, and others are staying with relatives elsewhere in Iran.
- According to Iranian media, after rescuing an estimated 2,000 people, Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) teams began to withdraw on December 29. According to the USAID/DART, more heavy equipment is needed for debris removal.
- Nearly 80 major aftershocks have been recorded, causing minor damage to existing structures.
- According to the USAID/DART, priority needs are water and sanitation, internally displaced persons, and shelter.

ESTIMATED NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
Total Population Killed	33,000 – 34,000	GOI
Total Population Injured	30,000	UN OCHA
Total Homeless	40,000 – 60,000	USAID/DART

**Total USAID/DART Earthquake Assistance to Iran .....\$2,132,607**

**Total USG Earthquake Assistance to Iran.....\$4,144,892**

**CURRENT SITUATION**

*Coordination*

- The USAID/DART reports that the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) has done an impressive job of coordinating humanitarian efforts. IRCS has divided Bam into 12 sectors with humanitarian assistance responsibilities for each being provided by local IRCS branches. An estimated 1,700 IRCS relief workers are currently in Bam registering the affected population, issuing distribution cards, and conducting monthly ration distributions, including rice, sugar, cooking oil, and soap. IRCS is mapping humanitarian needs to use as a basis for relocating people into camps, and the USAID/DART is completing assessments to assist in this mapping endeavor. The IRCS has joined with the International Committee of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (ICRC) to begin a tracing program and registration of the missing.
- A U.N. Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team has assisted in coordinating relief efforts. On December 30, the On-Site Operations Coordination Center (OSOCC) began daily Humanitarian Coordination Meetings to discuss assistance in the areas of food, health, water/sanitation, shelter, and child protection. UNDAC is scheduled to leave Bam by January 8, and the U.N. Development Program (UNDP) will assume coordination activities.

*Shelter*

- According to UN OCHA, many displaced persons have relocated with family members, but other residents are sleeping outdoors in sub-freezing temperatures. According to the USAID/DART, as of January 5, three camps, out of a total of up to nine planned, were established in Bam to accommodate the displaced and facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance. The 600 tent camps are equipped with donated blankets, sleeping pads, heaters, and kitchen sets.
- According to UN OCHA, the first camp began receiving people on January 4. However, the majority of residents are remaining near their properties. Local authorities expect residents to move to the camps as temperatures continue to fall.
- After a series of assessments in and around Bam, the USAID/DART reported that structural damage to buildings is extensive, with very few habitable structures. The USAID/DART reports that many residents are using sections of heavily damaged houses and buildings, putting themselves in danger due to aftershocks.
- The GOI has begun construction of one of three semi-permanent camps. The Government of Kerman estimates that 15,000 semi-permanent tents will be needed while reconstruction is planned and completed.

### *Health*

- According to the USAID/DART, the earthquake destroyed two hospitals in Bam, and local Iranian staff operates in tents in and around the remaining Iman Khomeini Hospital. The USAID/DART reports a need for medical and hygiene items.
- Injured medivaced from Bam during the first days following the earthquake are being released from Iranian hospitals and returned to Bam. The International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) field hospital is receiving these patients to continue their treatment. As of January 4, the IFRC hospital included emergency services, internal pediatric and surgical departments, lab and X-ray facilities, and an obstetric care department. The IFRC is expected to remain in Bam for the next 12 months as the central referral hospital.
- According to UN OCHA, the United States, Belgium, France, Hungary, India, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Morocco, Russian Federation, Turkey, and Ukraine have deployed international field hospitals to Bam. Although several field hospitals have already departed, leaving behind medical supplies, 7 international field hospitals are still operational.

### *Sanitation*

- In a January 4 assessment, the USAID/DART reported that the estimated 14,000 residents in Bam's central eastern Zone 2 are particularly vulnerable. The ICRS identified latrines, shower facilities, 200-liter water containers, and feminine hygiene products as the greatest need. Zone 5, a mixed commercial-residential area, sustained less damage.
- According to the USAID/DART, OSOCC views the shortage of toilets and washing facilities as the most important public health concern in Bam. The GOI Ministry of Health (MOH) estimated that 10,000 toilets and 1,500 bathrooms are needed in Bam and the surrounding villages.

### *Children*

- According to the USAID/DART, Iranian authorities are planning to reopen schools in Bam on January 10, depending on the condition of the school buildings and availability of teachers. UNICEF has transported 40 "schools in a box," to replace an estimated 23 destroyed, and an unidentified number of damaged, school buildings.
- According to the USAID/DART, the Islamic Social Organization has established a temporary orphanage on the grounds of a former high school. Due to damage to the temporary orphanage's housing facilities, the organization is housing, processing, and sending orphans to foster homes in Kerman and Tehran. The orphanage has processed 1,500 orphans to date.

### *Power, water, and logistics*

- According to the USAID/DART, the underground water supply to Bam has been damaged. While 9 of 11 boreholes that supply Bam's water are intact, only one of the two main water lines that bring water to Bam are functioning. The network is currently providing water to 50 percent of the city. Other parts of the city are supplied through water trucks. The lack of water tankers has been identified as a major water problem in outlying areas, but the expected arrival of water bladders should ease the shortfall.

## **U.S. GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE**

- The 81-member USAID/DART team arrived in country on December 30 via two C-17s and C-130. The USAID members include a Team Leader, Deputy Team Leader, Operations Coordinator, Planning Coordinator, Communications Officer, Information Officer, and Security Officer. Other components of the DART include the 11 member Fairfax County USAR Task Force and the 57 member International Medical/Surgical Response Team (IMSuRT) and 6 member Management Support Team (MST) from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).
- From December 31 to Jan 5, the USAID/DART set up operations in Bam, conducted needs and structural assessments, and coordinated with the MOH, the U.N., and NGOs. On December 31, the IMSuRT set up a field hospital to assist earthquake victims and donated 50 units of blood to the IRCS. From January 1 to 5, the IMSuRT Field Hospital treated 727 patients. While most cases have been routine, 30 percent are earthquake-related injuries, and there are some births, surgeries, and post-trauma mental health cases. As of January 6, the IMSuRT field hospital will close, and new patients will be referred to the IFRC field hospital.
- As of January 6, the majority of the USAID/DART will depart Bam. A team of nine DART members will remain on the ground in Bam to continue with assessments, programming, and coordinating with the IFRC, U.N., and NGOs. The USAID/DART will provide oversight on the disposition of commodities and equipment, as well as provide emergency first responder training, in conjunction with the IFRC and the U.N.
- USAID/OFDA has sent three airlifts of relief commodities, consisting of 300 rolls of plastic sheeting, approximately 12,500 blankets, and 512 winterized tents at a total cost of \$286,907.
- USAID/OFDA has provided \$600,000 to the IFRC in support of their Preliminary Appeal.
- According to the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD), seven C-130s have airlifted approximately 68 metric tons (MT) of medical supplies, 2,000 blankets, and a 10K forklift to assist in offloading relief commodities in Bam.

**ESTIMATED USG EARTHQUAKE ASSISTANCE TO IRAN**

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<b>USAID/DART ASSISTANCE</b>			
USAID	Logistics and commodities	Earthquake-affected regions	\$286,907
IFRC	Contribution to Preliminary Appeal for commodities	Earthquake-affected regions	\$600,000
USAR*	Urban Search and Rescue Team Support	Earthquake-affected regions	\$615,700
FEMA*	Medical Assistance Team Support	Earthquake-affected regions	\$600,000
Administrative*		Earthquake-affected regions	\$30,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/DART EARTHQUAKE ASSISTANCE TO IRAN.....</b>			<b>\$2,132,607</b>
<b>DOD ASSISTANCE</b>			
DOD*	Commodities and air transportation	Earthquake-affected regions	\$2,012,285
<b>TOTAL DOD EARTHQUAKE ASSISTANCE TO IRAN.....</b>			<b>\$2,012,285</b>
<b>TOTAL USG EARTHQUAKE ASSISTANCE TO IRAN .....</b>			<b>\$4,144,892</b>

\* These figures represent estimated costs as of January 5, 2004.

**OTHER DONOR AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION ASSISTANCE**

- According to international media reports and UN OCHA, the following donors have pledged \$74.8 million in assistance, including monetary and non-food items, as of January 4: Afghanistan, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Denmark, European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, India, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Kenya, Liechtenstein, Luxemburg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, and the United Kingdom.
- The IFRC has dispatched an assessment and coordination team to the disaster site and released a preliminary appeal for \$12.3 million in funding, commodities, or services to assist 200,000 beneficiaries for six months.
- On January 8, at a donor conference in Bam, the IFRC and the U.N. will launch appeals together. The appeals will address emergency needs for the next three months.

**PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION**

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for their earthquake response efforts in Iran can be found in the “How Can I Help” section of [www.usaid.gov/iran](http://www.usaid.gov/iran), or by calling (703) 276-1914. USAID encourages cash donations because they: allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, warehouse space, etc); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information on making donations and volunteering services can be found at:
  - USAID: [www.usaid.gov/iran](http://www.usaid.gov/iran)
  - The Center for International Disaster Information: [www.cidi.org](http://www.cidi.org) or (703) 276-1914
  - InterAction: [www.interaction.org](http://www.interaction.org) → “Guide to Appropriate Giving”
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int).

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID web site at [http://www.usaid.gov/our\\_work/humanitarian\\_assistance/disaster\\_assistance/](http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/).